



Common sense gun reform proposals that Senator Carper has long supported:

- ✓ **Strengthen and Improve Background Checks**
- ✓ **Renew the Ban on Military-Style Assault Weapons**
- ✓ **Renew the Ban on Large-Capacity Ammunition Magazines**
- ✓ **Ban Bump Stocks**
- ✓ **Support Funding to Study Gun Violence**
- ✓ **End the Gun Industry's Liability Shield**
- ✓ **Oppose Weakening Rules Restricting Gun Sales to the Mentally Ill**

Gun reform legislation Senator Carper has cosponsored in the 115th Congress:

Strengthen Background Checks (S. 2009):

The Background Check Expansion Act would expand the federal background check requirement to include the sale or transfer of all firearms by private sellers, with certain reasonable exceptions. This requirement extends to all unlicensed sellers, whether they do business online, at gun shows, or out of their home. Private sellers would need to visit a licensed firearms dealer to run the necessary background check (typically a relatively simple process that takes a few minutes to complete) before any gun sale is finalized. Exceptions to the proposal would include transfers between law enforcement officers, temporarily loaning firearms for hunting and sporting events, or providing firearms as gifts to immediate family members.

Bill Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 25, 2017.

Improve Background Check Effectiveness (S. 2135):

The Fix NICS Act of 2017 requires federal agencies and states to upload all disqualifying information—for example, criminal or mental health records—to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), showing an individual is prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms. It also requires agencies to publicly report and certify that they have uploaded the necessary information to the system, and it rewards states who comply through federal grant preferences and incentives.

Bill Status: This legislation was enacted as part of the FY18 spending bill that was signed into law by President Trump on March 23, 2018.

Close Loopholes in the Background System (S. 1539):

The Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act of 2017 would close two loopholes in the criminal background check system (NICS) to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and stalkers. Current law does not apply to many abusers who victimize non-spouse partners, called the “Boyfriend Loophole.” This bill adds dating partners to the list of “intimate partners” covered by current law, as well as adding those convicted of stalking misdemeanors to the list of prohibited persons who cannot purchase or possess firearms.

Bill Status: Hearings held by the Seante Judiciary Committee on March 20, 2018. 28 co-sponsors. Introduced by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

Renew the Ban on Military-Style Assault Weapons (S. 2095):

The Assault Weapons Ban would prohibit the sale, manufacture, transfer and importation of the most commonly-owned military-style assault weapons. The Assault Weapons Ban includes a grandfather clause that specifically exempts all assault weapons lawfully possessed at the date of enactment from the ban. The original Federal Assault Weapons Ban (enacted as part of the 1994 “Crime Bill”) lapsed in 2004.

Bill Status: Hearings held by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 14, 2018.

Renew the Ban on Large-Capacity Ammunition Magazines (S. 1945):

The Keep Americans Safe Act would prohibit the sale, transfer, or possession of high-capacity ammunition magazines. From 1994 to 2004, high-capacity ammunition magazines (more than 10 rounds of ammunition) were illegal under the Federal Assault Weapons Ban.

Bill Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 5, 2017.

Ban Bump Stocks (S.1916): Senator Carper is a cosponsor of this bill.

The Automatic Gunfire Protection Act prohibits the sale, transfer, manufacture, or possession of bump stocks, trigger cranks, or anything that accelerates a semiautomatic rifle’s rate of fire. These devices essentially convert semiautomatic weapons into fully automatic weapons (like machine guns), which have been banned since the 1930s and fire about 700 rounds per minute.

Bill Status: Hearings held by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 14, 2018.

Support Funding to Study Gun Violence (S.834):

This legislation would specifically authorize the appropriation of \$10 million in federal funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for research into firearms safety or gun violence prevention. This amount is minimal (less than one tenth of one percent) compared to the CDC’s budget. A 1996 appropriations rider authored by former Rep. Jay Dickey (R-AR) prohibits federal funding for research that “may be used to advocate or promote gun control.” It has chilled gun safety research at the CDC and throughout the federal government for the past two decades. In 2016, Senator Carper led a [letter](#) to CDC, urging the agency to use its existing authority to expand critical gun violence research.

Bill Status: Referred to the Senate HELP Committee on April 5, 2017. Senator Carper also signed a March 14, 2018 Dear Colleague letter sent to HELP Committee Chair Alexander and Ranking Member Murray, urging them to consider the legislation during the Committee’s next executive session.

End Gun Industry’s Liability Shield (S. 1939):

The Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act would repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), which provides immunity in state and federal court from civil liability for manufacturers, distributors, and dealers of firearms, as well as their trade associations, in most negligence and products liability actions. The gun industry has a unique immunity from liability under well-established common law principles that apply to everyone else in society.

Bill Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 5, 2017.

Additional Common Sense Gun Control Votes:

Oppose Weakening Rules Restricting Gun Sales to the Mentally Ill: *Senator Carper voted to oppose efforts to overturn common sense gun control measures on the Senate floor in February 2017.*

Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), the Senate voted (57-43) to overturn an Obama Administration rule designed to keep firearms out of the hands of certain people deemed mentally ill. The rule would have required the Social Security Administration to send records of some beneficiaries with severe mental disabilities to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System. About 75,000 people found mentally incapable of managing their financial affairs would have been affected.